

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the) APPLICATION NO. TR-162
Prescription of Reasonable)
Rates and Charges for Motor) GRANTED ON AN
Carriers Passengers and) EMERGENCY BASIS
Property for Hire Subject to)
The provision of Neb. Rev. Stat.)
(Reissue 2004), Chapter 75,)
Articles 1 and 3.) ENTERED: APRIL 30, 2008

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND FINDINGS

On April 24, 2008, Daniel W. and Susan L. Sindt d/b/a Kearney Cab Company, Kearney, Nebraska, filed an application for authority to amend its rates for its operations as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
1. First 1/5 mile (initial meter charge)	\$2.75	\$2.95
2. Each additional 1/5 mile or fraction thereof	\$0.35	\$0.39
3. Each additional passenger and/or baggage	\$0.75	\$0.75
4. Waiting time per minute	\$0.30	\$0.30
5. Refusal of ordered service upon arrival of taxicab at point of commencement of trip.	\$2.25	\$2.25

Emergency action is requested.

Applicant is a certificated common carrier which holds Certificate B-1402. The certificate authorizes the transportation of passengers by taxicab between points in Buffalo County and between points within Buffalo County, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, points in Nebraska over irregular routes. The transportation of railroad train crews and their baggage is not authorized.

In support of the application, Daniel Sindt of Kearney Cab states that fuel charges have increased dramatically. Prices in his area have increased to \$3.59 per gallon as of last week. This increase in the cost of gasoline is having a negative effect on the Applicant's ability to provide service. Additionally, the Applicant cited increased

insurance premiums and increased cost of maintenance for his fleet as additional costs that have increased since the granting of an increase for the Applicant over two years ago.

At the time of the last rate increase for the Applicant in March of 2006 it was noted that the cost of gasoline had reached nearly \$2.90 per gallon average in Nebraska. The average cost of fuel in Nebraska as of the time of this order is now around \$3.60, which is a twenty-four percent increase. The increase has been accelerating more lately as the price of oil has risen to almost \$120 per barrel as of the date of this order. The increase in the rate requested by the Applicant is seven percent on the initial meter charge and eleven percent in the mileage charge. These charges as proposed by the Applicant are still competitive with rates charged by other companies providing similar services.

The increase in cost to the applicant is significant, and needs to be addressed quickly to protect the applicant's ability to continue to provide its services to the public. The Commission finds that the proposed rates are reasonable. The Commission further finds that an emergency situation does exist for the Applicant and the increases in the rates are justified due to the amount and speed of the increases in the cost of gasoline and are necessary for the Applicant to continue to provide and improve its services to the public.

Upon consideration of the application and being fully advised in the premises, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that the application should be granted on an emergency basis effective May 4, 2008.

ORDER

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that effective May 4, 2008, Daniel W. and Susan L. Sindt d/b/a Kearney Cab, Kearney, Nebraska, be, and it is hereby, authorized to amend its rates for its use in Certificate No. B-1402 as follows:

Description	Rate
1. First 1/5 mile (initial meter charge)	\$2.95
2. Each additional 1/5 mile or fraction thereof	\$0.39
3. Each additional passenger and/or baggage	\$0.75
4. Waiting time per minute	\$0.30
5. Refusal of ordered service upon arrival of taxicab at point of commencement of trip.	\$2.25

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service that notice of this amendment to their rates be conspicuously displayed within each taxicab.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that public notice of this action be published in the Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, pursuant to the provisions of Section 75-121. R.R.S. 2003, and the Commissions Rules.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 30th day of April, 2008.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chair

ATTEST:

Executive Director